

**of FA protein dysfunction and cytogenetic instability in prostate cancer cells.** Susan A. Speckhart, Winifred Ari, Susan B. Olson, and Grover C. Bagby Jr. *OHSU Cancer*

exists between tumor aggressiveness and cytogenetic instabilities. Chromosomal defects represent an unfavorable prognostic factor in prostate cancer of the prostate. In this tumor type, accumulations of chromosomal abnormalities has correlated positively with outgrowth of androgen-independent prostate cancer. While some molecular causes of genetic instability in cancers of hematopoietic tissues are recognized, the mechanisms that contribute to genetic instability in prostate cancer cells are unknown. For decades, a syndrome of Fanconi anemia has been recognized to predispose to bone marrow failure, leukemia, and solid tumors. There are eight groups from which 7 genes have been cloned and characterized. These genes collaborate with each other and with BRCA1 and BRCA2 to detect and/or repair DNA cross links and double strand breaks. The proteins (FANCA, C, E, F, and G) form a nuclear complex involved in the ubiquitination of the sixth (FANCD2). This post-translational modification of FANCD2 is required for FANCD2 to associate with BRCA1 in DNA damage repair. The seventh FA gene is BRCA2 of which C-terminal truncating mutations are observed. Testing the hypothesis that abnormalities of the FA pathway contribute to genetic instability in prostate cancer cells, we quantified the function of the FA pathway in prostate cancer cell lines: DU145 and PC3 (both androgen independent and genetically complex) and LNCaP (androgen dependent). Western blot analysis, immunoprecipitation, and immunoblotting with polyclonal antisera to FANCA, FANCD2, and BRCA2 were determined that two cell lines demonstrated abnormality. In the DU145 cell line, FANCD2-S (not monoubiquitinated) and FANCD2-L (ubiquitinated) was not implicating dysfunction of FANCA, C, E, F, or G. In the PC3 cell line, BRCA2, FANCD2-L were detectable but significantly decreased. Dysfunction in both of these cell lines was confirmed in the mitomycin C sensitivity test. The LNCaP cell line was mitomycin resistant by normal BRCA2 and FANCD2S and L were normal. We suggest the FA pathway may represent an important progression factor in genetic instability in prostate cancer cells.

**of transcription factor Oct-1 by Ku/DNA-dependent protein kinase to DNA damage.** Caroline Schild-Poulter, Amy Shih, Jeff C. Kochan, Sebastien Soubeyrand, and Robert JG Heath *Health Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

transcription factor Oct-1 is a signal transduction cascade leading to cell cycle arrest and DNA repair pathways. The Ku/DNA-dependent protein kinase is a necessary component of the non-homologous end-joining pathway, through its direct participation in the DNA repair pathway. It has also been suggested to be involved in the signaling cascade, but its function is still lacking. We have recently documented an interaction between Oct-1 and transcription factor Oct-1, an ubiquitous homeodomain transcription factor. Oct-1 has been implicated in the regulation of transcription of histone H2B and the immunoglobulin genes, and in the regulation of viral replication. Oct-1 is known to be differentially phosphorylated during the cell cycle but the status of its phosphorylation after DNA damage is unknown. Here we show that Oct-1 is up-regulated in a time-dependent manner following treatment by various doses of ionizing radiation. This up-regulation is dependent on Ku and DNA-PK. This up-regulation is observed in cell lines lacking either Ku or DNA-PK and was dependent on a region comprising its trans-activation domain and on the region in which Oct-1 interacts with Ku70. Intriguingly, exposure to ionizing radiation inhibited the ability of Oct-1 to activate transcription from DNA templates. Moreover, endogenous H2B mRNA was found to be up-regulated following DNA damage in a Ku and DNA-PK-dependent manner. In vitro phosphorylation of full-length Oct-1 revealed that at least several residues in the glutamine-rich N-terminal region are phosphorylated following DNA damage. These results suggest that phosphorylation of Oct-1 modulates its function following DNA damage. The phosphorylation of the Oct-1 residues targeted by DNA-PK are crucial for its function.

**of mtDNA regions to DNA damage and mutation.** M. Mambo, Xiangqun Gao, Paul Talaly, and David Sidransky *University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD.*

mtDNA mutations in human cancers are located in the D-loop and in particular in a poly cytosine stretch (C-tract) termed D310. The D310 region exhibits polymorphic length variation among individuals and has been described to be a "hot spot" for somatic mutations in many cancer types. We analyzed mtDNA integrity and damage repair after exposure to a DNA UV-mimetic damaging agent using real time quantitative PCR. The mtDNA integrity of different regions was analyzed by calculating the mtDNA to nuclear DNA (mtDNA/nDNA) ratio. A lower mtDNA/nDNA ratio represents less initial template denoting a decrease in the integrity of mtDNA. The results showed that mtDNA damage profile was region dependant. The C-tract was the least affected region whereas the D-loop was the most sensitive to damage. Furthermore, D310 was the most sensitive region to damage compared to the other D-loop regions. When we examined the temporal repair of mtDNA following exposure to DNA damaging agents we found that the D-loop and in particular D310 harbored delayed repair when compared with the Cox II and rRNAG regions. Delayed repair gave rise to common D310 C-tract frameshift mutations. Our results demonstrate that the D-loop (and in particular the D310 region) is highly susceptible to mutations due to its vulnerability to DNA damage coupled with inefficient repair of this region. The susceptibility of the D310 to mutations may also explain the high frequency of D310 somatic mutations detected in many tumor types.

**#1197 Reciprocal translocations in mucoepidermoid carcinoma.** Giovanni Tonon, Kristen Stover, Raluca Yonescu, Anna Roschke, Frederic J. Kaye, and Ilan R. Kirsch. *Genetics Branch, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD.*

Mucoepidermoid carcinoma is the most common human malignant salivary gland tumor and can arise from both major salivary glands and minor salivary glands including sites within the pulmonary tracheobronchial tree. We performed Comparative Genomic Hybridization (CGH) and Spectral Karyotyping (SKY) on two tumor cell lines that were generated from tumors located in either the parotid gland or the lungs. In both cell lines, CGH showed a gain at the chromosomal band 7p21 and SKY demonstrated the presence of the previously reported balanced translocation t(11;19)(q21;p12). Multiple chromosomal rearrangements were also present in both cell lines, including four reciprocal translocations in cell line H292 (t(1;16), t(6;8)x2 and t(11;19)), and four reciprocal translocations in cell line H3118 (t(1;7), t(3;15), t(7;15), t(11;19)). A review of the literature confirmed the presence of a pattern predominated by reciprocal translocations in other reported cases of mucoepidermoid carcinomas analyzed with standard G-banding techniques, as well as distinct benign salivary gland tumors like pleomorphic adenomas and Whartin tumor. Among solid tumors, only some pediatric sarcomas present a similar cytogenetic feature with frequent reciprocal chromosomal rearrangements. In addition to the shared characteristic t(11;19), fluorescence in situ hybridization with BAC clones showed that one partner of two distinct translocations in the two cell lines presented a breakpoint in an interval of less than two megabases, at 5p15. The involvement of similar chromosomal bands in breakpoints in these two cell lines suggests that this additional region may be selected or predisposed to chromosomal rearrangements in this tumor type. The presence of multiple reciprocal translocations in selected benign and malignant salivary gland tumors may also suggest a mechanism within mucous/serous glands mediating chromosomal rearrangements.

**#1198 Increased gene copy number may alter E2F1 activity in melanoma growth.** Mark A. Nelson, Anthony Beas, Anne-Christine Goulet, David T. Lowry, Steven H. Reynolds, Amy M. Jefferson, Jamie R. Senft, and Linda Sargent. *Department of Pathology, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ and Centers for Disease Control, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV.*

The identification of recurring translocations and unique chromosome breakpoints in melanoma will aid in the identification of the genes that are important in the neoplastic process. Previous studies by our group identified translocations der(12)t(12;20) in malignant melanoma cells. The transcription factor E2F1 maps to 20q11. Deregulated E2F transcriptional activity has been associated with the autonomous growth of melanoma cells, but the molecular basis has not yet been elucidated. To this end, we investigated E2F1 gene copy number and structure in nine different early passage human melanoma cell lines. Fluorescent in situ hybridization analysis using a specific E2F1 probe indicated increased E2F1 gene copies in several melanoma cell lines compared to normal melanocytes. The FISH observations were confirmed by comparative genomic hybridization array to BAC clones and Southern Blot analysis. In addition, Western blot analysis demonstrated increased E2F1 and DP-1 protein levels in 8 out of 9 melanoma cells compared to normal melanocytes. These data suggest that the release of E2F activity by elevated E2F1 gene copy numbers may play a functional role in melanoma growth. (Supported by CA 70145).

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